

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 157218
ORIGIN HA-05

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APPROVED BY HA:PMDERIAN
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HA-ORM - MR. CARLIN
CA - MR. DEW
CA-PPT - MR. LAWRENCE (INFO
CA/SCS-MR. GISE(INFO)
-----007632 210320Z /70

P R 210141Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0591
JCTC BARBERS POINT HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, VN

SUBJECT: REUNION OF FAMILIES FROM VIETNAM

1. SRV HAS INFORMED SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY (D.-MASS.) THAT
IT PLANS SHORTLY TO ALLOW SOME 15 AMCIT CHILDREN WITH US
PASSPORTS, AND THEIR VIETNAMESE MOTHERS, TO DEPART VIETNAM
TO JOIN RELATIVES (AMERICAN FATHERS) IN THE U.S.

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2. THIS DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWS MEETING IN PARIS MAY 27 BETWEEN
SENATOR KENNEDY'S REFUGEE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF (DALE DEHAAN
AND JERRY TINKER) AND SRV AMBASSADOR VO VAN SUNG, IN WHICH
STAFFERS PROVIDED A LIST OF THESE CHILDREN, WHICH HAD BEEN
COMPILED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO
SRV RED CROSS BY ICRC IN GENEVA.

3. KENNEDY'S OFFICE ASKED VIETNAMESE IF IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO INFORM FAMILIES, AND SRV CABLED BACK JUNE 20 ASKING THAT THIS NOT BE DONE FOR THE TIME BEING BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL "SEARCHING FOR THE HOME ADDRESSES OF SOME OF THE CHILDREN IN VIETNAM."

4. AMERICAN RED CROSS AND WE HAD VETTED LIST CAREFULLY, SO PRESUMABLY THIS MEANS SOME OF THE CHILDREN HAVE CHANGED ADDRESSES WITHOUT THEIR RELATIVES IN THE U.S. BEING INFORMED

(NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF LONG DELAYS IN EXCHANGE OF MAIL BETWEEN U.S. AND VIETNAM).

5. KENNEDY'S OFFICE HAS INFORMED NY TIMES AND BOSTON GLOBE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND WE EXPECT STORY WILL BE PUBLISHED JUNE 21.

6. COMMENT: AMERICAN RED CROSS, ICRC, UNHCR, AND WE HAVE MADE CONTINUING EFFORTS IN PAST YEAR TO ARRANGE FAMILY REUNIONS FOR RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN VIETNAM. LIST OF 15 CHILDREN WITH U.S. PASSPORTS WAS COMPILED IN EFFORT TO MAKE AT LEAST A BEGINNING ON CASES FOR WHOM THERE COULD BE NO POSSIBLE VISA QUESTION. KENNEDY'S STAFFERS DISCUSSED WITH SRV DESIRABILITY OF FAMILY REUNIONS ALSO FOR THE RED CROSS LIST OF 200-300 RELATIVES IN VIETNAM (NOT U.S. CITIZENS) WHO ALSO SEEK REUNION WITH AMCIT RELATIVES
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IN THE U.S. OVER AND ABOVE THESE CASES THERE ARE ALSO THE MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE IN THE U.S. (NOT AMCITS) WHO ALSO SEEK FAMILY REUNIONS.

7. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE INFORM ICRC AND UNHCR OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

8. SUGGEST PARIS TELL FRENCH AND BANGKOK INFORM THAI, AT YOUR DISCRETION.

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157218

FOL STATE 157218 SENT ACTION BANGKOK GENEVA PARIS INFO
HONG KONG VIENTIANE USUN CINCPAC JCTC BARBERS POINT HAWAII
JUNE 21, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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